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JUL 1 4 1999

Federal Communications Commission

Office of Secretary

From:

<Wunderband@aol.com>

To:

K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...

Date:

Sun, Jul 11, 1999 10:40 AM

Subject:

In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,

Commissioner Gloria Tristani, Commissioner Michael Powell

Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth Federal Communications Commission

The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore,

Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr. cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive. local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

- Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
- 2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
- 3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
- 4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
- 5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast

- 6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
- 7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
- 8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
- 9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.
- 10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.
- 11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.
- 12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

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From, Robert Fanelli 1321 Spruce #1-E Philadelphia PA 19107

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From:

Laura Powers <annalaur@eden.rutgers.edu>

To:

K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...

Federal Communications Commission

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cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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Additional Comments= name=Laura Powers street=310 First Ave city=New York state=NY zip=10009 =Send to FCC

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ORIGINAL RECEIVED

From:

<Maat23@aol.com>

To:

K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...

Date:

Sun, Jul 11, 1999 4:05 AM

Subject:

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cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore,

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cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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Michael J. Dunne 7747 Greenback Ln. #410 Citrus Heights, CA 95610

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ORIGINAL JUL 1 4 1999

From:

Roger Ferguson <rferg@hevanet.com>

Federal Communications Commission

To:

K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K... Office of Secretary

Date:

Sat, Jul 10, 1999 6:51 PM

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Additional Comments=
name=Roger Ferguson
street=623 SW Park #505
city=Portland
state=OR
zip=08205-3127
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From:

"Ecological Villager's Alliance" <ecoville@sirius.com>

To:

K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K... Communications Commission

Date:

Sun, Jul 11, 1999 2:44 AM

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
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city=Oakland
state=CA
zip=94607-3609
=Send to FCC

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED ORIGINAL 1 4 1999

From:

Cecile Andrews <cecile@simplicitycircles.com>

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

To:

K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...

Date:

Sat, Jul 10, 1999 11:28 AM

Subject:

In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,

Commissioner Gloria Tristani, Commissioner Michael Powell Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth Federal Communications Commission

The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore,

Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr. cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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Additional Comments= name=Cecile Andrews street=711 N 60th St. city=Seattle state=WA zip=98103 =Send to FCC

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RECEIVED

JUL 1 4 1999.

From:

Smith <drift_1999@yahoo.com>

To:

K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K.

Date:

Sat, Jul 10, 1999 11:57 AM

Subject:

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Commissioner Susan Ness

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Additional Comments=
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state=CA
zip=95076
=Send to FCC

From:

Mary Riddick

To:

"Alfredo@la.nelvana.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1

Date:

Mon, Jul 12, 1999 11:29 AM

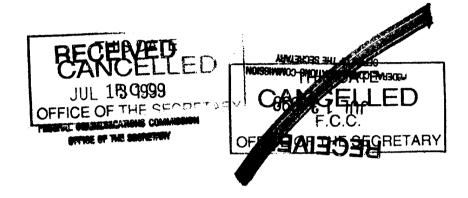
Subject:

Re: in support of the mec letter on mm docket no. 99-25

JUL 1 4 1999

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it has been communications Commission forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25 forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

>>> Alfredo Tryferis <Alfredo@la.nelvana.com> 07/09 4:39 PM >>>



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